

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-2425
Mary A. Taylor House
1517 West Joppa Road
Riderwood, Baltimore County
1879
Private

The Second Empire style Mary A. Taylor House, constructed in 1879 in the Ninth District village of Riderwood, was constructed on a parcel of land originally belonging to the Walnut Hill tract, which was occupied in the 1870s by L.J. Roberts. Although construction of the house began as early as June 1879, the property wasn't actually purchased by Mary A. Taylor until the following August. Construction of the dwelling was complete by 1882, and five years later, Taylor sold the property to Charles C. Homer, who resided in the dwelling as late as 1915 and whose family retained ownership of the large estate until 1971.

The Mary A. Taylor House, a two-and-a-half-story dwelling that fronts north on the south side of West Joppa Road, is five bays wide with a two-bay-deep ell. Although the main block and ell are contemporary, the foundation of the main block is solid random rubble stone while that of the ell is six-course American bond brick. Two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps rise from the center of the main block. The German-sided house features a central sash-and-paneled double-leaf wood door with a three-light transom and four-light sidelights over paneled dado. Flanking the entry are four floor-to-ceiling 4/6 windows, while five 4/4 windows pierce the second story. Three segmental-arched dormers with 1/1 vinyl windows project from the slate-tiled mansard roof. All façade openings have square-edged wood surrounds and sills, and a six-bay-wide porch that wraps around the northwest corner of the building and extends south by two bays shelters those of the first story. Chamfered wood posts spanned by a square-edged wood balustrade support the porch roof. The ell features one reconstructed brick interior chimney rising from its south elevation and a one-story porch that spans its east elevation. Circa 1930, an addition to the second story was constructed on the south elevation of the main block above the ell porch.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2425

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Mary A. Taylor House (preferred)

other Taylor-Homer House

2. Location

street and number 1517 West Joppa Road not for publication

city, town Riderwood vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John Thomas Caskey and Priscilla Carroll Caskey

street and number 1517 West Joppa Road telephone Not Available

city, town Riderwood state MD zip code 21139

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 5466 folio 970

city, town Towson tax map 69 tax parcel 1045 tax ID number 1600002460

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2425

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Mary A. Taylor House, a two-and-a-half-story Second Empire style dwelling that fronts north on the south side of West Joppa Road, is five bays wide with a two-bay-deep ell. Although the main block and ell are contemporary, the foundation of the main block is solid random rubble stone while that of the ell is six-course American bond brick. Two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps rise from the center of the main block. The German-sided house, which was constructed in 1879, features a central sash-and-paneled double-leaf wood door with a three-light transom and four-light sidelights over paneled dado. Flanking the entry are four floor-to-ceiling 4/6 windows, while five 4/4 windows pierce the second story. Three segmental-arched dormers with 1/1 vinyl windows project from the slate-tiled mansard roof. All façade openings have square-edged wood surrounds and sills, and a six-bay-wide porch that wraps around the northwest corner of the building and extends south by two bays shelters those of the first story. Chamfered wood posts spanned by a square-edged wood balustrade support the porch roof. The ell features one reconstructed brick interior chimney rising from its south elevation and a one-story porch that spans its east elevation. Circa 1930, an addition to the second story was constructed on the south elevation of the main block above the ell porch.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2425

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1879-present **Architect/Builder** John Burns, contractor

Construction dates 1879, 1930 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Second Empire style Mary A. Taylor House, constructed in 1879 in the Ninth District village of Riderwood, was constructed on a parcel of land originally belonging to the Walnut Hill tract, which was occupied in the 1870s by L.J. Roberts. Although construction of the house began as early as June 1879, the property wasn't actually purchased by Mary A. Taylor until the following August. Construction of the dwelling was complete by 1882, and five years later, Taylor sold the property to Charles C. Homer, who resided in the dwelling as late as 1915 and whose family retained ownership of the large estate until 1971.¹

The land now encompassing the community formerly known as Riderwood Station and Post Office began to take shape as early as 1850, when the Northern Central Railroad extended north roughly parallel with the present Bellona Avenue and intersected with West Joppa Road. The town took its name from the Rider family, who owned significant amounts of land at this intersection. The 1850 county atlas reveals the land as improved with a cotton mill, general store, school house, and Hunt's Meetinghouse.² The farms that traversed the landscape were subdivided over the next twenty-seven years, and by 1877, many additional dwellings were constructed in the area.³ Located west of Towson and south of Lutherville, Riderwood appears to have been the location of a few country houses owned by wealthy families. The Walnut Hill, Chestnut Summit, and Rider family estates were located here. The 1915 county atlas confirms that Riderwood was a suburban residential community along the railroad line.⁴ By 1915, several large suburban estates fronted West Joppa Road and Bellona Avenue, and the area retains its turn-of-the-twentieth century character.

The Second Empire style, distinguished by its Mansard roof, originated in France during the reign of Napoleon III and was popular in the United States primarily from 1860 until 1880. The style typically makes use of decorative eave and porch brackets, molded cornices, window surrounds and door casements, and shaped

¹ Baltimore County Historic Inventory; see also *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

² J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

³ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

⁴ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2425

Name Mary A. Taylor House, 1517 West Joppa Road, Riderwood, Baltimore County
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

dormers.⁵ The Mansard roof with shaped dormers are the features of the Mary A. Taylor House that tie the dwelling to the Second Empire style.

⁵ Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* (New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1994), p. 148; see also Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985), pp. 241-242.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2425

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Cockeysville Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1879, the Mary A. Taylor House has been associated with the 1.58 acres of land known as tax parcel 1045 of map 69 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

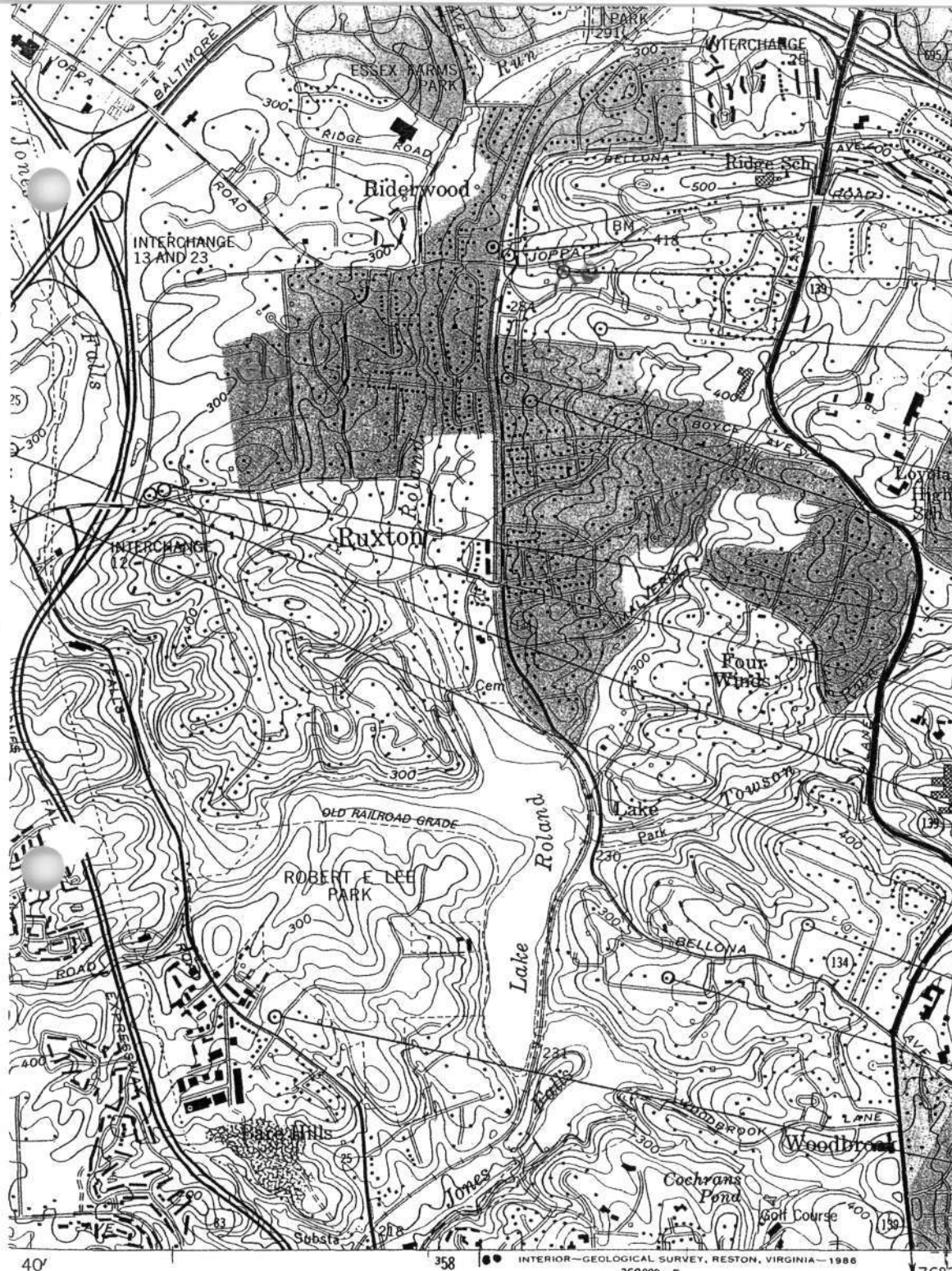
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 22, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



- EA-2141
1606 WEST JOPPA ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-2359
1600 WEST JOPPA ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-2425
1517 WEST JOPPA ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-1775
1400 WAGWUT HILL LANE
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-2202
2004 RUXTON ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-2203
2008 RUXTON ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-2642
- BA-2372
1013 FALLS ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	-----

 Interstate Route
 U. S. Route
 State Route



COCKEYSVILLE, MD.
39076-D6-TF-024

1957
PHOTOREVISED 1986
DMA 5662 I NW-SERIES V833

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1983 and other sources. This information not field checked Map edited 1986

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

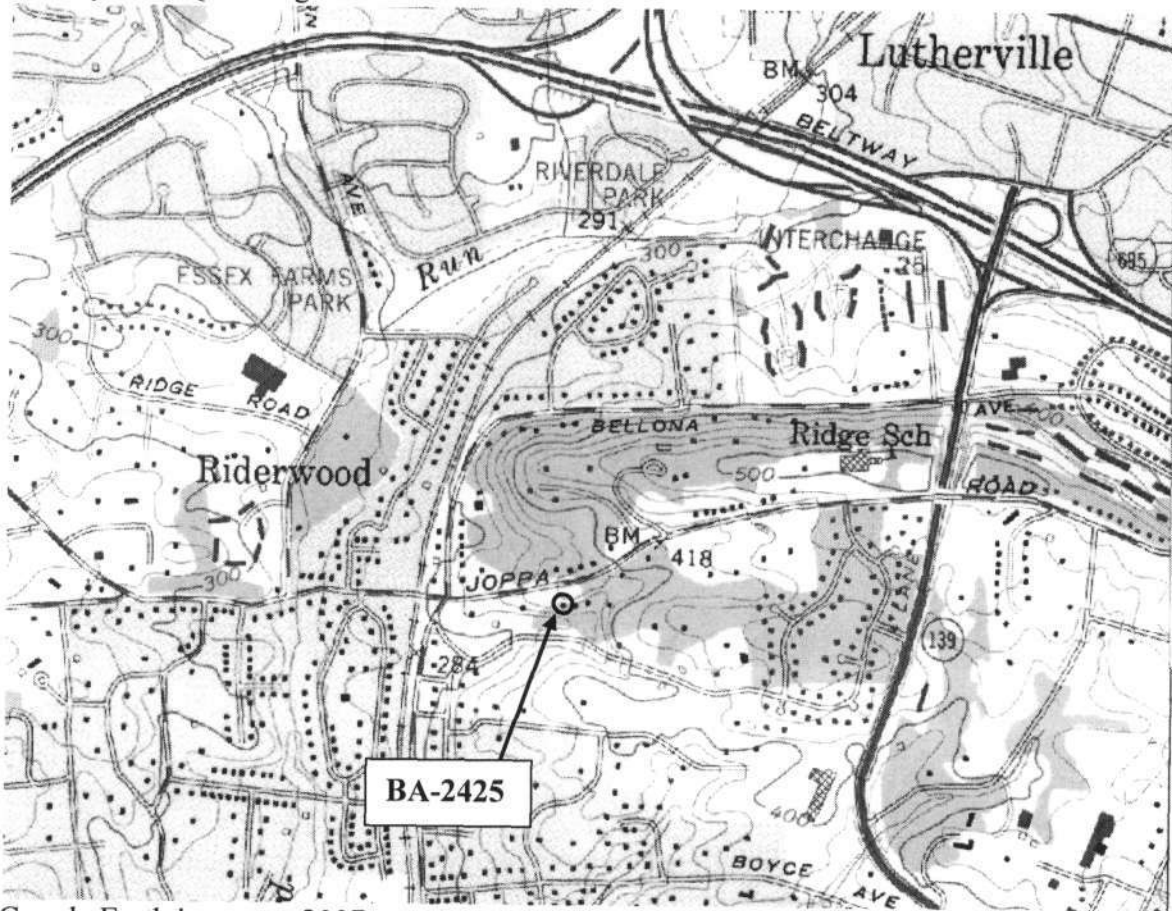
(BALTIMORE EAST)
5662 I SE

BA-2425

Mary A. Taylor House (Taylor-Homer House)

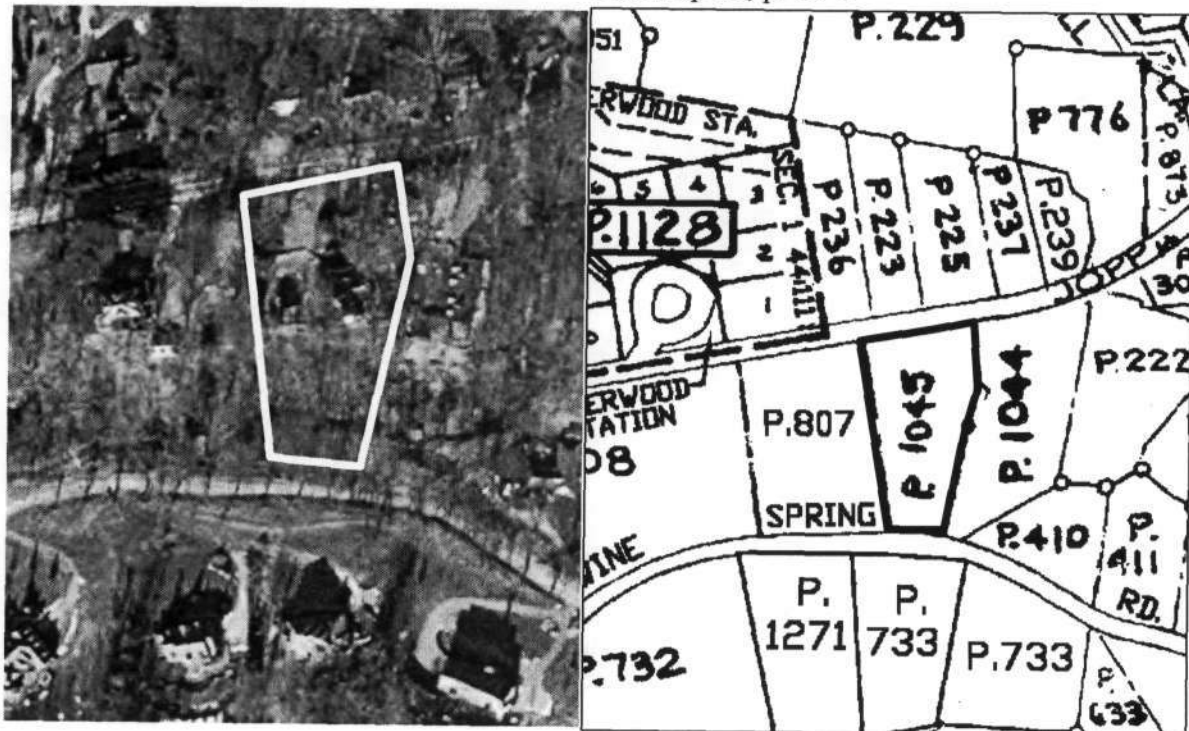
1517 W. Joppa Road, Riderwood

Cockeysville Quadrangle



Google Earth image, c. 2007

Tax Map 69, p. 1045





BA-2425

1517 WEST JOPPA ROAD, RIDERWOOD
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

NW CORNER

1 of 2



BA-2425

1517 WEST JOPPA ROAD, RIDERWOOD
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

SE CORNER

2 of 2

2425 TAYLOR-HOMER HOUSE - 1880-1882 - 1517 W. Joppa Road, Riderwood. This parcel was carved out of the Walnut Hill tract in 1879. In August of that year, Mary A. Taylor bought 3.31 acres from Lewis Roberts. By the publication of E. Robinson's 1882 map, Mrs. Taylor's house was in place. In 1887, she sold to Charles C. Homer; the house remained in the Homer family until 1971. Large frame and clapboard house on hilltop; mansard roof. Owner: Joht T. Caskey & wife.